

115 915

FINLEY A. SEAGLE, M.D.

1233 SHELBURNE ROAD
LAKEWOOD HOUSE, SUITE E1

SO. BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05403 DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

CARDIOLOGY and INTERNAL MEDICINE

Telephone: (802) 862-5353

00 NOV -7 PM 4: 07

November 3, 2000

Docket Management Facility
US Department of Transportation
Docket No. FAA-2000-8016 -155
400 Seventh Street
Nassif Building, Room Plaza 401
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Sirs:

I have been an Aviation Medical Examiner in both a military and civilian capacity for approximately 40 years. During that time frame, I have seen thousands of pilots for flight physicals. A great number of these pilots are approaching the age of 60 and are in excellent physical and mental health. These pilots usually have a great number of flight hours and bring vast experience to any airline. What impresses me is the fact that many of them wish to continue to fly after the age of 60. This is, in my opinion, a great indicator that they have the motivation and capability to perform their aviation duties.

I am of the opinion that to arbitrarily deny a pilot the privilege of flying after the age of 60 is a great waste of valuable resources. It is these "older" pilots that share time and tremendous experience with our younger generation of pilots.

This arbitrary and mandatory 60 year old retirement age for pilots is ridiculous. I wonder how our United States Senators and members of the House of Representatives would like a mandatory retirement age of 60, indicating, perhaps, that at the age of 60 you are no longer competent or able to perform your duties.

I would respectfully request that 60 year old pilots not be a subject to an outdated arbitrary rule. Perhaps, each pilot approaching 60 years old and applying for a medical certificate and the right to continued employment could be asked to undertake more involved medical testing. If the pilot were to pass these medical tests, he would be granted special issuance to continue flying. I again, respectfully ask that you take my suggestion's under advisement.

Sincerely yours,

Finley A. Seagle

Finley A. Seagle, M.D.

FAS/clf